

REMARKS

The Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1-22 are pending. Claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 11, 13, 14, 17, and 20 are amended, and claims 21 and 22 are added. Claims 1, 11 and 21 are independent. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner states that claims 9 and 19 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

The Applicants thank the Examiner for the early indication of allowable subject matter in this application. In response, new independent claim 21 is added combining the subject matter of independent claim 1, allowable claim 9, and intervening claims 7 and 8. In addition, each of independent claims 1 and 11 is amended herein to set forth a novel combination of elements not suggested by any combination of the references cited by the Examiner.

Accordingly, independent claims 1, 11, and 21 are in condition for allowance.

Claim for Priority

The Examiner has acknowledged the Applicants' claim for foreign priority.

Information Disclosure Citation

The Applicants thank the Examiner for considering the reference supplied with the Information Disclosure Statement filed March 17, 2004, and for providing the Applicants with an initialed copy of the PTO-1449 form filed therewith.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and §103(a)

Claims 1, 3, 10, 11, 13, and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by JP 62-11294;

Claims 1-6 10-16, and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsuchida (U.S. 5,794,330); and

Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 62-11294.

These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Amendments to Independent Claims 1 and 11

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance prosecution of the instant application, independent claim 1 is amended herein to recite a combination of elements directed to a lubricating bearing structure, including

a cam holder including a nose portion which projects integrally from the cam holder towards a valve stem, the nose portion being an oil feed path for feeding a lubricant to an upper end of a valve.

In addition, independent claim 11 is amended herein to recite a combination of elements directed to a lubricating bearing structure, including

an oil feed path for feeding a lubricant to the upper end of a valve stem formed on an inclined upper surface of a rearwardly projecting extension of the cam holder,

wherein the rearwardly projecting extension of the cam holder includes a convex-shaped projection, the convex-shaped projection protruding downward at an exit of the oil feed path in order to drop the lubricant from the oil feed path directly onto an upper end of the valve stem.

By contrast, as can be seen in JP 62-11294, FIG. 3, this document merely discloses a separate oil feeding guide 42 bolted on top of upper cam holder 29. Further, as can be seen from JP 62-11294, FIGS. 7 and 8, this document fails to disclose the cam holder including a nose portion which projects integrally from the cam holder towards a valve stem, the nose portion being an oil feed path for feeding a lubricant to an upper end of a valve, and fails to disclose a convex-shaped projection protruding downward from the cam holder.

Further as can be seen in Tsuchida FIG. 3 and column 7, lines 35-38, this document merely discloses "a drilling 93 extends from each cutaway 92 to main gallery 85 for delivering oil to the cam lobes and also the tappets 64 and 66.

With regard to Tsuchida FIG. 10, the Examiner argues (page 4 of the Office Action) that drilling 91 teaches the projection 37L protruding downward. This certainly is not the

case. The drilling 91 of Tsuchida and the projection 37 of the present invention are completely different.

The Examiner also refers to Tsuchida FIG. 8 as teaching a through-shaped oil path. The Applicants respectfully submit that they can find no such teaching or suggestion in FIG. 8.

Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of elements as set forth in each of independent claims 1 and 11 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including JP62-11294 and Tsuchida, at least for the reasons explained above.

Therefore, independent claims 1 and 11 are in condition for allowance.

As described above, added independent claim 21 is in condition for allowance.

The Examiner will note that dependent claims 3, 4, 7, 13, 14, 17, and 20 are amended and dependent claim 22 is added to set forth additional novel features of the present invention.

All dependent claims are in condition for allowance due to their dependency from allowable independent claims, or due to the additional novel features set forth therein.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and §103(a) are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject claims, but merely to show the state of the art, no comment need be made with respect thereto.

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Amendment dated May 6, 2005
Reply to Office Action of February 10, 2005

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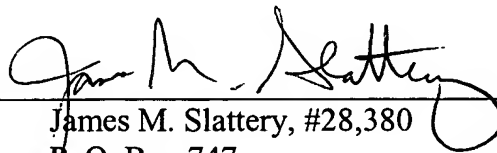
All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and that the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone Carl T. Thomsen (Reg. No. 50,786) at (703) 205-8000.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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